

Albania

REPORT

1. Tirana Airfield.

2. Albanian Armed Forces.

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REFERENCES

25X1

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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An airfield was located west of Tirana (QG 34), just south of the road to Durrës (QG 04). A power plant was 150 meters east of the field, and the Tirana railroad station was about 300 meters northeast of the airfield. The graded sod landing field was about 1.5 km from east to west and about 1 km from north to south. Wartime damage was repaired only to the degree necessary to permit civilian air traffic. A concrete taxiway about 30 to 40 meters wide was connected with the concrete runway by a semi-circular strip. The eastern end of the runway had an asphalt cover. *

The airfield was used for civilian air traffic. A twin-engine commercial plane landed regularly three times a week. Unscheduled single-engine and twin-engine courier or commercial planes were seldom seen landing at the field. No aircraft were stationed there. Local residents said that the planes which made regular intermediate landings at the field on Tuesdays and Thursdays came from Hungary. A brick building was occupied by about 40 Albanian Army troops who guarded one of the two entrances to the field.

Albanians said that, prior to 1945, another airfield existed about 3 km farther to the north. This field was allegedly plowed in 1945 or 1946.

Albania has an army and a navy but no air force. Soviet or other foreign troop units have not been seen there. However, Soviet officers of all ranks, who were employed as instructors, have been observed in Albania.

Comment.

Based on information from World War II, [redacted] made an error in observation as to the width of the oval taxiway which is about one third of the runway; the runway was 1,900 meters long at that time. The runway was possibly enlarged at its eastern end by the small strip with the asphalt cover.

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Document No.	2
No Change in Class.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Declassified	
Class. Changed To:	TS S G 25X1
Auth:	HR 70-2
Date:	10 AUG 1978
By:	[redacted]

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